



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Examiner: Thomas, Joseph

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this application and the appeal is Becton Dickinson and Company by an assignment recorded September 6, 2002 on Reel 013266, Frame 0424.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other related patents or applications related to this invention on appeal or that are involved in an interference proceeding.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-25 are pending and are the subject of this appeal. Claims 1-25 stand finally rejected and are reproduced in the Claims Appendix (Section VIII).

IV. Status of Amendments

Amendments to the claims were filed on June 8, 2007 and were entered in the August 22, 2007 final rejection.

V. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

Briefly, the present invention is directed a health outcomes and disease management network and related method for providing improved healthcare. A network 102 of healthcare managers and healthcare providers 106 interactively cooperate with patients or clients 112 to enroll clients in the network with a plan of care, monitor and evaluate patient status to provide the most appropriate treatment for the patients in the most cost-effective manner, thus improving overall healthcare. The network 102 aggregates data to reveal population trends and outcomes, and provide rapid feedback and information on the best medical/economic practices to the local networks.